

31st January 1970. F.A. Amateur Cup 3rd Round v. Wealdstone (away) |

Wealdstone 0, Wycombe Wanderers 1

WYCOMBE WANDERERS' striker supreme, Tony Horseman, scored the goal that nudged the men from Loakes Park into the Amateur Cup quarter final draw and said: "If they were all as easy as that I wouldn't mind."

How true; but not only the goal. In fact, the entire all-Isthmian clash at Lower Mead on Saturday, emphasised the possibilities of a League-Cup double for Wanderers this season.

Despite their slender victory margin and their failure as ever to totally dominate the park, Wycombe progressed past round three almost by instinct.

The youthful home side worked enthusiastically creating several chances to pull back into the match. But, with four present Internationals and many more bordering on representative honours, Wycombe had the class to cancel out ground advantage and more.

They made the gap so clear that Saturday became somewhat of an anti-climax after the uncertainty of two second round battles with Tooting.

Wanderers were unchanged from the Sandy Lane replay, leaving Keith Blunt to wait patiently on the substitute's bench.

As at Tooting, where he came on to score a late equaliser, Blunt was there to add that little extra boost if needed. He wasn't.

Wealdstone, if always in the hunt score-line wise, never managed to extend the visitors that far.

Man of many people's match must have been Julian Lailey, working almost as an upfield sweeper-cum-link.

Paying a sentimental visit to Lower Mead, were Keith Searle and Johnny Hutchinson, both of whom had worn Wealdstone colours when the Middlesex men fought back for an Isthmian League point at Wycombe early in the season.

Wealdstone, fully aware of their capabilities, nonetheless showed little fear of them, but quickly had to think again when Searle almost broke through as early as the fifth minute, following some fine manoeuvring from Horseman along the right wing.

Hutchinson meanwhile was playing the length of the field, picking up the pieces of failed Wealdstone attacks, and carrying the ball back past the half way line. He was however never quite so troublesome to his former colleagues.

Dave Swain, red-haired centre-forward, had to clear his own line as Wycombe created havoc in a 21st minute scramble around the home goal.

In reply, the Stones were obviously working on reports of Ian Rundle's suspect form, sending punts upfield in hopes of outpacing the full back.

Rundle's answer was an unflappable 90 minutes, and Wealdstone's left winger, Lincoln Peddie had to move into the centre to find breathing space.

The home forwards seemed individually fast and active, but collectively slow and weak-witted, wasting the majority of their raids before they even began to look dangerous.

Not until the 30th minute did they record their first corner, and Wanderers answered four minutes later with the opening and deciding goal.

Geoff Anthony slipped his through pass into an open goalmouth, where Horseman had only to re-direct the ball over the line.

A Wealdstone triangular movement along their left wing caught Barry Baker as 'piggy in the middle' and the Wycombe defence offguard, but Bernie Bremer finished off the raid by shooting inches high of the bar.

"I thought Bremer was their only danger man upfront", commented the visitors' confident goalkeeper, John Maskell after the match.

But although Wealdstone used the number seven constantly, he was kept firmly in check by Charlie Gale's splendid anticipation and Peter Suddaby's northern doggedness and would have been more wisely employed on their other flank directly opposed to Rundle.

Hutchinson and Anthony frequently switch wings to test out every possible means of penetrating their opponents' defence lines and just such a tactic might have paid off for the Stones on the day.

Instead they maintained a rigid plan, and it was Wycombe's slick interpassing that churned up every area of Wealdstone turf before half time.

They closed the first period with mounting pressure on the home net, Searle crashing the ball wide again almost on the interval whistle.

Wealdstone's player-manager Howard Moxon withdrew their weak-link in mid-field, John Draper and introduced Dave Bullock as second half substitute — a move that infinitely strengthened the Stone's search for an equaliser.

Almost before Wycombe's defence had had time to draw in a deep breath at the start of the new half, Bremer underlined his threat. He sprinted onto Bullock's pass, meeting Suddaby and Delaney in a rare moment of confusion, only to shoot across goal and onto a post.

Bremer, again, in the 65th minute made matters tricky with a cross-pass off the right, while Peddie missed connection when well placed in front of goal.

But Wycombe's front-runners twice caught their opponents in disarray and the growing tensions led to cautions for Suddaby and Peddie as play entered the final ten minutes.

Another three minutes, and a high-lobbed shot from Searle would have settled it there and then had Wealdstone 'keeper, Andy Williams not turned the ball over the bar for a corner.

Searle, among others, came close to pushing in the deflection before Bob Williams moved to the aid of brother Andy by clearing the home goal-line.

Yet more lay in store as Wycombe ate away valuable playing time by pre-occupying Wealdstone with defence.

'Keeper Williams acted like lightning to save an Anthony header from no more than two yards out, and, a split second before the final whistle, Horseman offered the parting shot, which pounded against a post.

Meanwhile, down field, Maskell relaxed in Wycombe's goal and felt quite justified in his post-match reflection; "I never thought it was in doubt".

Wealdstone: A. Williams; M. Doyle, H. Moxon; R. Williams, M. Barnard, J. Draper; (sub. D. Bullock), B. Bremer, G. Hand, D. Swain, D. Montague, L. Peddie.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; I. Rundle, C. Gale; P. Suddaby, J. Delaney, J. Lailey; G. Anthony, B. Baker, K. Searle, A. Horseman, J. Hutchinson, sub. K. Blunt (not used).

Referee: Mr. R. E. Evans (Upton).

Attendance: 4,129.

Wealdstone 0 Wycombe 1

LIVELY WYCOMBE Wanderers eased into the quarter-final of the F.A. Amateur Cup with a convincing win over Wealdstone.

They were neater in defence and always lively in attack, with the midfield controlled superbly by Peter Suddaby, John Delaney, and Julian Lailey.

The one goal came from a move by Suddaby. Antony stepped past Wealdstone's Doyle to give Tony Horseman a simple shot from eight yards.

Wealdstone's only chance of levelling the game came right at the start of the second half when Bremmer took a magnificent pass from Bullock, but his shot bounced clear off a post.